quality electrical appliances for common domestic use by consumers, Government has already brought 24 electrical items e.g. electric stoves, electric iron, electrical immersion water heater, switches, electric radiators etc. used by consumers in their daily life under the Mandatory Certification Scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Compliance to the specification of the relevant Indian Standard for such products is also mandatory for import of such items into India.

Prices of mustard oil

†241. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of mustard oil have steeply risen during the last six months throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of large scale consumption of mustard oil in northern India;

(d) if so, the total consumption of mustard oil throughout India as edible oil;

(e) what steps Government have taken to ensure the supply of edible oil at controlled price; and

(f) the extent to which this step would provide relief to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total consumption of mustard oil throughout India as edible oil has been estimated at 12.31 lakh tonnes during the year 2002-03.

(e) and (f) The steps taken include:

(i) Import of edible oils (except coconut) is allowed on OGL,

(ii) The State Governments/UT Administrations have been addressed to maintain constant watch over the availability and prices of edible oils.

In view of easy availability, there is no controlled price for edible oils.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.